

April 23.

IMPOSE TARIFF ON NET WEIGHT.

Important Decision Affecting the Fish Trade.

Judge Colt in the United States circuit court yesterday decided in the case of Lincoln, Willey & Co., and other fish dealers against the United States, that the net weight of imported fish was the dutiable weight under the tariff act of 1897.

The decision is of importance to the fish trade, for it follows the custom in the trade of making allowances in the sale of bulk fish for salt, scales and dirt. The decision was made in connection with the importation of salted herring from Canada. The government assessed a duty of one-half cent a pound on the gross weight of the fish, which included the salt in which it was packed and the scales and dirt. The board of appraisers upheld the government.

The importers claimed that the net weight of the fish was a test, for in the trade bulk herring is sold at 228 pounds to the barrel and paid for on the basis of 200 pounds, the 28 pounds being deducted on account of shrinkage due to salt, scales and dirt.

The court holds that inasmuch as the custom is established that 28 pounds out of every 228 never entered into the marketable weight in the trade, the tariff should be imposed only upon the net weight, reversing the decision of the appraisers.

April 23.

Price of Pacific Halibut Drops.

The price of halibut on the Pacific coast, which for some time has been ruling unusually high, has suddenly taken a drop and quotations have been cut in half. This has been brought about by the coming of better weather on the banks and a more plentiful supply of fish, and also because the catch on the Atlantic, being greater this winter than for several years, has taken the winter tenseness from the Boston and New York markets.

April 25.

Herring Plenty at Magdalen Islands.

Recent North Sydney, C. B., advices say:

A telegram received from the Magdalen Islands announces the fact that herring are very plentiful. Spring herring have struck in also at North Sydney and local fishermen are daily making large hauls. During the past few days four American fishing vessels have come in port for bait.

A letter to the Dominion fisheries intelligence bureau reports that herring have struck in off Panmure Island and at Cardigan bay, P. E. I. Two barrels per net reported on Monday, with good fishing Tuesday in the rivers. Two bankers that called at Georgetown on the 11th and 13th were not successful in obtaining bait and proceeded to the Magdalen Islands, the gulf being full of ice.

Portland Fish Notes.

Pollock arrivals were numerous Friday, but not very large. The gasoline fisherman Bessie Dugan had 15,000 pounds, the Alice G., 7000 and the Nellie York, 10,000.

The clam business is dull. It was good all the winter, unusually good in fact, for the clam diggers made with little trouble from the ice and frozen flats. However, a boom is expected about the last of May, when the summer hotels begin to open. There is always a demand for the bivalves at that time and the Portland dealers are looking forward to a busy season.

Trawl Salt Bank Fleet Catches.

Sch. Arethusa of the trawl salt bank cod fleet, which was at North Sydney, C. B., recently and secured bait and supplies, hauled for 250,000 pounds of salt cod. Sch. Smuggler, which was there in company with the Arethusa, had 130,000 pounds and sch. Hazel R. Hines, which put in there for bait a day later, hauled for 100,000 pounds.

April 25.

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NETTER LANDS FIRST FRESH MACKEREL AT NEW YORK.

Sch. Bernie and Bessie at Fulton Dock
With 100 Fish This Forenoon.

Other Netters Land Fish at Delaware Breakwater and Chincoteague.

Ahead of any of the mackerel seiners, the first mackerel netter has arrived at Fulton Market, New York, with the first fresh mackerel landed at that port this season. There have been occasions when the netters have landed the first catches of the season at other ports and shipped them to New York, but this is the first time in the history of the southern mackerel fishery when the first mackerel arrival of the season at Fulton Market, direct from the fishing ground, with a fare, has been a netter. The seiners have always monopolized this honor hitherto.

The craft to bear off this signal honor is the Portland mackerel netting sch. Bernie and Bessie, Capt. Frank McIntire. She came up to Fulton dock about 9.30 o'clock this forenoon, and her arrival caused plenty of excitement, not only on account of her bringing the first fare there, but because her coming in also meant the settlement of many wagers which are made at Fulton Market every season as to the date of the first arrival there.

Capt. McIntire did not have many fish. He hauled his catch for just 100 large bloaters, and they were sold to Chesebro Brothers.

The captain reports getting his fare Saturday, 50 miles off Barnegat

Other Netters Land Fish at Southern Ports.

Sch. Bernie and Bessie is not the only netter to bring in fish, for there are two netters at Lewes, Delaware Breakwater, and one at Chincoteague, all shipping to New York, and beside these, the little set netters of Chincoteague sent up four lots to Fulton Market, containing 875 fish in all, and they are all large.

The netters at the Breakwater and shipping are sch. Lafayette, Capt. George Peeples, of this port, with two barrels of large fresh mackerel and sch. Mabel Bryson, Capt. Joseph Sampson, with the same amount. At Chincoteague is a New York netter, sch. Clifton, Capt. Augustus Anderson, with 250 large fresh mackerel. The Mabel Bryson shipped to Chesebro Brothers, the Lafayette to Wilson & Barry, and the Clifton to Wallace & Keeney.

The small lots of the Chincoteague set netters were shipped as follows: Galilee Fish Company 70, B. B. Luce 150, Fulton Fish Company 150, New York Fish Company 25, W. Robbins 60, Chesebro Bros. 350, Wilson & Barry 70.

The catches of sch. Mabel Bryson and Lafayette were taken Saturday 35 miles southeast from Fenwick's Island.

Saturday morning a mackerel was received from Cape Cod, the second one so far this season. The first fish was a big one, but the second was a "tinker."

April 25.

SECOND STEAM TRAWLER COMING

Contract Made For New Craft
to Cost \$60,000.

A second steam otter trawler is to be added to the Boston fleet of fishing vessels, and the contract to construct the vessel has been awarded the Fore River Shipbuilding Company at Quincy, the vessel to be delivered ready for service in about six months.

When the Spray, modelled after trawlers much in vogue at Grimsby, Eng., was launched in 1906 at Quincy, T wharf was not altogether satisfied that the innovation would prove a pecuniary success. The Bay State Fishing Company, sponsors for the Spray, asserted that the venture was in the nature of an experiment, and the company, which is now building the second trawler, declares the Spray is making good, and the type is destined to be a money-winner.

For a year or more the Spray, under charge of Capt. Michael Green, has proved remunerative, the report to shareholders showing that she has earned money. Before Capt. Green was placed in command, the vessel was not wholly a source of revenue. Recently, however, Capt. Green has brought in heavy fares. On April 19, for example, he landed 130,000 pounds of fish at T wharf, the catch having been made in five days.

The new vessel will be 117 feet on the waterline, or about 10 feet shorter than her predecessor. She will have a triple-expansion engine of 450 indicated horsepower and a Scotch boiler, the power plant being identical

with that of the Spray. The vessel will differ somewhat in model from the Spray, suggestions made by Capt. Green and others who have watched the performance of that vessel at sea being incorporated in the design. No changes in gear or method of operating the trawl will be made, so that machinery and nets may be interchangeable.

More speed is looked for in the new steamer than in the original craft. She will cost in the vicinity of \$60,000 when ready for sea, and command of her will be given Capt. Green of the Spray. The crew, as in the case of the Spray, will number 19 all told.

April 25.

Fishermen Waiting for Bait.

The fishermen are having trouble in getting fresh bait, and Saturday afternoon there were 20 sail of fishermen held up at Provincetown waiting for bait. Herring and sand eels are scarce, and some of the captains took on frozen bait rather than hold their vessels in port longer.

Bank Halibut Sale.

Bank halibut sold here this morning at 8 1-2 cents per pound for white and 6 3-4 cents for gray.

The fare of sch. Yakima sold to the American Halibut Company and that of sch. Corona to the New England Fish Company.

April 25.

French Fishing Fleet at North Sydney, C. B.

The first arrival of the French fishing fleet this season at North Sydney, C. B., was the appearance of three schooners, direct from St. Pierre, in the stream early Monday morning. All the vessels were for bait, ice and small supplies. As a result of the scarcity of herring at other ports, the North Sydney fishermen are reaping a good harvest.

April 25.

FISH ARRIVALS MORE PLENTIFUL

Many Varieties Included in the Receipts.

There has been quite a number of arrivals here since last report pollock seiners predominating. From off-shore are two fresh halibuters and one Peak shacker.

On Saturday afternoon sch. Manhasset arrived from the Peak with 80,000 pounds of fresh fish, mostly cod, and sch. Corona arrived from Quero bank with 25,000 pounds of halibut and 5000 pounds of salt cod.

During Saturday afternoon four of the pollock seiners landed from 4000 to 30,000 pounds each and the steam netter Nomad had 5000 pounds of fresh fish.

Yesterday sch. Yakima, Capt. Robert Wharton, arrived from Quero bank with 18,000 pounds of halibut and 3000 pounds of salt cod, making a very quick trip, having been out but 17 days. Capt. Wharton reports fine weather and saw no vessels.

During the night five of the pollockers brought in fares of from 6000 to 21,000 pounds. Steamer Nomad had a small lot of haddock and pollock and sch. Ellen C. Burke came up from Rockland where she landed 23,000 pounds of fresh fish.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Corona, Quero Bank, 25,000 lbs. halibut, 5000 lbs. salt cod.

Steamer Independence, shore, (Saturday), 15,000 lbs. pollock.

Steamer Water Witch, shore, 4000 lbs. pollock.

Steamer Bryda F., shore 30,000 lbs. pollock.

Sch. Little Fannie, shore, (Saturday), 15,000 lbs. pollock.

Steamer Bessie M. Dugan, via Portland.

Sch. Yakima, Quero Bank, 15,000 lbs. halibut, 3000 lbs. salt cod.

Steamer Nomad, shore, (Saturday), 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer Unknown, shore, 6000 lbs. pollock.

Steamer Philomena, shore, 21,000 lbs. pollock.

Sch. Thomas J. Carroll, shore, 10,000 lbs. pollock.

Sch. Ellen C. Burke, via Rockland.

Sch. Little Fannie, shore, 6000 lbs. pollock.

Steamer Nomad, shore, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Manhasset, Peak, 80,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Steamer Independence, shore, 15,000 lbs. pollock.

Sch. Mary Emerson, shore.

Sch. Mineola, shore.

Steamer Joppaite, shore.

Steamer Jeffery, shore.

Steamer Mystery, shore.

Sch. Reliance, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Massasoit, south netting.

Sch. Jennie H. Gilbert, south netting.

Sch. Georgia, south netting.

Sch. Mary Edith, haddocking.

Sch. Teresa and Alice, Boston.

Sch. Joseph H. Cromwell, Boston.

Sch. Admiral Dewey, flitted halibuting.

Steamer Nomad, netting.

Steamer Philomena, pollock seining.

Sch. Selma, halibuting.

Today's Fish Market.

Bank halibut, 8 1-2 cents per lb. for white and 6 3-4 cents for gray.

Georges halibut, 8 cts. per lb. for white and 6 cts. per lb. for gray.

Large halibut cod, \$3 per cwt.; medium cod, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Trawl salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.

Large salt headline Georges cod, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.00.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$3 per cwt.; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.

Salt pollock, \$1.25 per cwt.; salt haddock, \$1.25; salt hake, \$1.25.

Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$2 per cwt.; medium do., \$1.65; Eastern cod, large, \$1.60; medium cod, \$1.40; cusk, \$1.60 for large, \$1.20 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 80 cts.; hake, 90 cts.; pollock round, 65 cts.; dressed, 70 cts.

ELEVEN FARES AT T WHARF.

Fish Brought Good Prices This Morning.

The 11 market boats at T wharf this morning with trips, struck fine prices and all will fare well. Haddock are worth from \$3.75 to \$4.50 with large cod from \$3 to \$4 and market from \$2 to \$4, pollock and cusk brought \$1.75 and hake went from \$1.60 to \$2.75.

Sch. Matiana from down east has a big catch 76,000 pounds, mostly hake and cusk. Among the good fares are sch. Boyd and Leeds, from drifting, with 24,000 pounds of codfish, and sch. Flavilla, from down east with 46,000 pounds of hake and cusk.

Schs. Athena, Mary E. Silveira, Rose Standish and Valentinna have from 12,000 to 17,000 pounds each of cod and haddock. Trade is brisk.

The receipts and prices in detail are:

Boston Arrivals.

Sch. Matiana, 1000 haddock, 6000 cod, 55,000 hake, 13,000 cusk, 1000 pollock.

Sch. Mary E. Silveira, 14,000 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Boyd & Leeds, 24,000 cod.

Sch. Athena, 10,000 haddock, 1500 cod.

Sch. Flavilla, 36,000 hake, 5000 cusk, 5000 pollock.

Sch. George E. Lane, Jr., 10,000 cod.

Sch. Rose Standish, 4500 haddock, 7000 cod, 500 pollock.

Sch. Actor, 800 haddock, 4500 cod.

Sch. Eva Avina, 5000 cod.

Sch. Yankee, 8000 haddock, 4000 cod.

Sch. Valentinna, 17,000 haddock, 500 cod.

Haddock, \$3.75 to \$4.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$3 to \$4; market cod, \$2 to \$4; hake, \$1.60 to \$2.75; pollock, \$1.75, cusk, \$1.75.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Cavalier passed north by Mulgrave, N. S., Wednesday.

Sch. Lucinda I. Lowell was at Canso, N. S., Friday, with 80,000 pounds of salt cod.

Sch. Mabel D. Hines was at Louisburg Friday to land a disabled fisherman.

Sch. Dictator baited at Edgartown Friday and sailed for the fishing grounds.

Sch. Fish Hawk arrived at Edgartown Friday for a baiting of alewives.

April 26.

Herring Fishery Suspended.

Owing to the low price for herring in Canadian and American markets, many of the Bay of Islands, N. F., people have suspended operations in the herring fishery for the present and are directing their attention to other more remunerative vocations.

Ready to Sail.

Sch. Admiral Dewey, Capt. James Hayes, is all fitted for her flitted halibut trip and ready to sail the first fair chance.

Large Porpoise.

A 200-pound porpoise is on exhibition at the door of an Atlantic avenue fish store at Boston. The fish was found in one of the weirs at Provincetown, and captured.

Pacific Halibut.

Five cars of Pacific halibut arrived at Boston yesterday and several cars are due at New York today.

Halibut at Portland.

Sch. Marjie Turner is at Portland today with 12,000 pounds of halibut.

April 26.

FROM THE MACKEREL FLEET.

One Netting Fare Shipped to New York.

The Edgartown mackerel netting sloop Priscilla got 250 large mackerel in a set of her nets off Chincoteague last Wednesday, then ran in to that port and shipped her catch to New York.

The fresh mackerel landed at and shipped to Fulton market yesterday by the netters sold at 50 cents each.

April 26.

LACK OF WIND CAUSED A LOSS.

Late Arrivals at Boston Yesterday Got Lower Prices.

Capt. Frank Gaspa of sch. Matchless was not complaining of an ill wind, yesterday morning, but of no wind that cost him over \$500. Capt. Gaspa left T wharf last Thursday, and on Friday had taken on bait and sailed for off Chatham, where he fished. Saturday and part of Sunday his crew fished, and took 55,000 pounds of haddock, 4000 pounds of cod, 500 pounds of pollock and 300 pounds of catfish.

Knowing that there had been few vessels at T wharf Friday, and that few of those which had left there in the latter part of the week had got bait, Capt. Gaspa made all haste to reach Boston for the early Monday market, when prices are good. The wind failed him, however, and all the sailors' ways of bringing a wind failed also, and it was not until near 10 o'clock in the forenoon that he moored at T wharf.

In the meantime the vessels at the wharf had received good prices for fish no better than his, and the fish over the road was sold high. When Capt. Gaspa got on the stand at the exchange he was forced to take a price \$1.50 lower than the highest for his haddock, and felt that was what an absence of even an ill wind had cost him. He will stock, however, about \$1500, and his men will share about \$38 each for the two days' fishing.

Sch. Victor and Ethan, Capt. Herbert Nickerson, was in the same fix as Capt. Gaspa. His vessel reached T wharf at the same time as the Matchless, and with 23,000 pounds of haddock, 7000 pounds of cod and 1000 pounds of pollock on board he had to take low prices.

Portland Fish Notes.

Sch. Elva L. Spurling of Boston put in here Saturday to land her commander, Capt. Thomas Gould, who had been suddenly taken ill. He was taken to the Marine hospital, the command of the schooner being taken by Capt. Gilbert Gallant.

Steamer Pet arrived up from Boothbay Harbor Sunday for supplies. The steamer has been engaged in pollock-out of Rockland and has had fine success, netting a round sum for her owners the past month.

The United States fish commission steamer Gannet arrived Sunday in search of cod eggs, and will remain in this vicinity a day or two until a supply can be obtained from some of the fishermen. On the last trip down she carried about two million cod eggs, and on her next trip this way she will bring up an attache from the hatchery who will remain here, making it his business to gather supplies of lobster eggs for the Gannet. During the past fortnight millions of lobster eggs have been stripped from about 9000 seed lobsters which have been stored in the new pound attached to the hatchery since last July, and which is found to be much more favorable to development than the old one, but few of the lobsters having been lost in spite of the long confinement. In addition to the large business going on at the hatchery in the propagation of cod and lobsters something is being done at the same time in the way of flounders, no less than 420 million eggs of that species of fish having been hatched out this spring, which will soon be scattered along the coast of Maine and New Hampshire, the results of which may help in the future to lessen the high cost of living.

Owing to the heavy fog at sea for several days past the number of fishing vessels to come into port with fish has been very small and not a single vessel came in Sunday. Only one arrival was reported up to a late hour Monday afternoon as the schooner Mary T. Fallon was the only vessel to find her way into port through the dense fog. She brought in 40,000 pounds of mixed fish and that amount will take care of the market until the weather clears.

Sch. Mary T. Fallon was at Portland yesterday afternoon with 40,000 pounds of fresh fish.